

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An image recording method in which an image on an intermediate transfer medium is produced by supplying a liquid thereon in response to an image signal, and said image is then transferred to a recording medium so as to produce a recorded image, said image recording method comprising the steps of:

forming a layer of an intermediate transfer element removably on a surface of said intermediate transfer medium, said intermediate transfer element comprising a powder having a water-absorbing ability relative to said liquid and an ultraviolet stabilizer, said layer being dissolvable and swellable by said liquid on said intermediate transfer medium and enabling a viscosity of said liquid residing thereon to be increased;

producing an image on said intermediate transfer medium by supplying said liquid on said intermediate transfer medium; and

transferring said image on said intermediate transfer medium to said recording medium. [[,]]

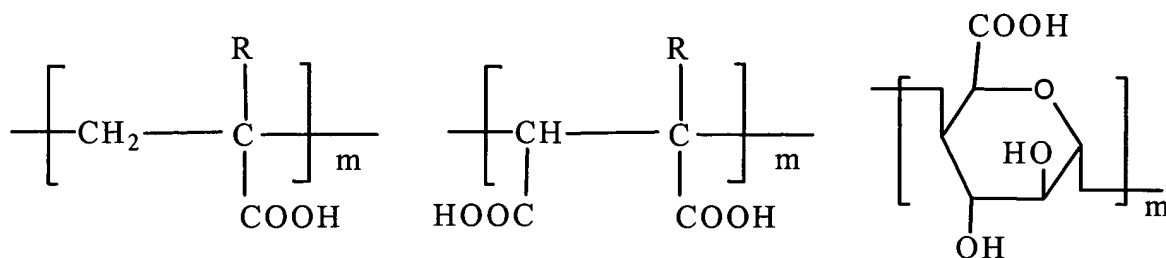
2. (currently amended) The recording method as claimed in claim [[I]]1, wherein said ultraviolet stabilizer includes at least one stabilizer selected from the group consisting of benzophenone-based, benzotriazole-based and triazine-based ultraviolet stabilizers.

3. (original) The recording method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said ultraviolet stabilizer includes at least one stabilizer selected from the group consisting of cerium oxide and titanium oxide.

4. (original) The recording method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said intermediate transfer element comprises said ultraviolet stabilizer having an amount of from about 0.1% to

10% by weight relative to said powder.

5. (original) The recording method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said powder comprises at least one polymer selected from the group consisting of polymers of the following formula and their crosslinking polymers, and said powder has a salt formed with oleophilic amine:



wherein R represents hydrogen or an alkyl group having one to three carbon atoms.

6. (currently amended) The recording method as claimed in claim 1, wherein particle diameters of said powder and said ultraviolet stabilizer are less than a half of a diameter of a droplet of said liquid.

7. (original) An image recording apparatus in which an image on an intermediate transfer medium is produced by supplying a liquid thereon in response to an image signal, and said image is then transferred to a recording medium so as to produce a recorded image, said image recording apparatus comprising:

a forming portion for forming a layer of an intermediate transfer element on a surface of said intermediate transfer medium, said intermediate transfer element including a powder and an ultraviolet stabilizer, said layer disposed removably on said intermediate transfer medium, said layer being dissolvable and swellable by said liquid on said intermediate transfer medium and enabling a viscosity of said liquid residing thereon to be increased;

a liquid supplying portion for supplying said liquid on said intermediate transfer medium of which surface has said layer so as to produce an image thereon; and

a transfer portion for transferring said image produced thereon to said recording medium.

8. (original) A method of forming an image on a recording medium, comprising the steps of:

forming a layer of an intermediate transfer element removably on a surface of an intermediate transfer medium, said intermediate transfer element comprising a powder having a water-absorbing ability for a liquid and an ultraviolet stabilizer, said layer being dissolvable and swellable by said liquid on said intermediate transfer medium and enabling a viscosity of said liquid residing thereon to be increased;

producing an image on said intermediate transfer medium by supplying said liquid on said intermediate transfer medium; and

transferring said image on said intermediate transfer medium to said recording medium.